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	Title March 2006 Raccoon Road-kill Survey	

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Raccoon road-kill surveys are conducted in Indiana during the months of March, July and August to estimate regional and statewide raccoon abundance (Figure 1). The March road-kill survey provides an estimate of relative abundance, not actual animal numbers, for Indiana's raccoon breeding population. Conservation Officers, Wildlife Section Biologists and F&W Property Managers record the number, sex and age of road-killed raccoons they observe while conducting daily operations.

A total of 830 raccoons was observed road-killed during 336,683 miles of travel observations in March 2006, resulting in a statewide index of 25 road-killed raccoons per 10,000 miles (Table 1). The March 2006 index declined 28% from 2005 and a downward trend in March indices (since 2004) suggests a decline in Indiana's raccoon breeding population. Statewide reports from hunters, trappers and the general public about sick raccoons were common from 2003 to 2005. With declining trends in raccoon pelt prices and harvest levels from 2003 to 2005, disease (e.g., canine distemper) related factors are likely the cause for reduced road-kill observations. Despite recent reductions in March road-kill indices, Indiana's raccoon breeding population remains abundant and has the potential to maintain the population at elevated levels.

Acknowledgement is due to all Division of Enforcement Officers, Wildlife Section Biologists and Property Managers who collect data for the road-kill survey.

Table 1. Number of road-killed raccoons sighted for every 10,000 miles traveled during March 1997-2006 in Indiana.

Region	Year									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northwest	25	21	27	26	31	25	46	53	41	29
Northeast	25	23	22	25	29	45	40	34	38	28
North Central	27	27	37	29	39	35	57	83	48	41
Southwest	17	9	12	14	12	17	27	24	24	15
South Central	18	16	17	16	23	21	34	21	18	20
Southeast	15	15	21	25	20	19	30	30	29	21
Statewide	21	19	22	22	25	24	37	37	32	25



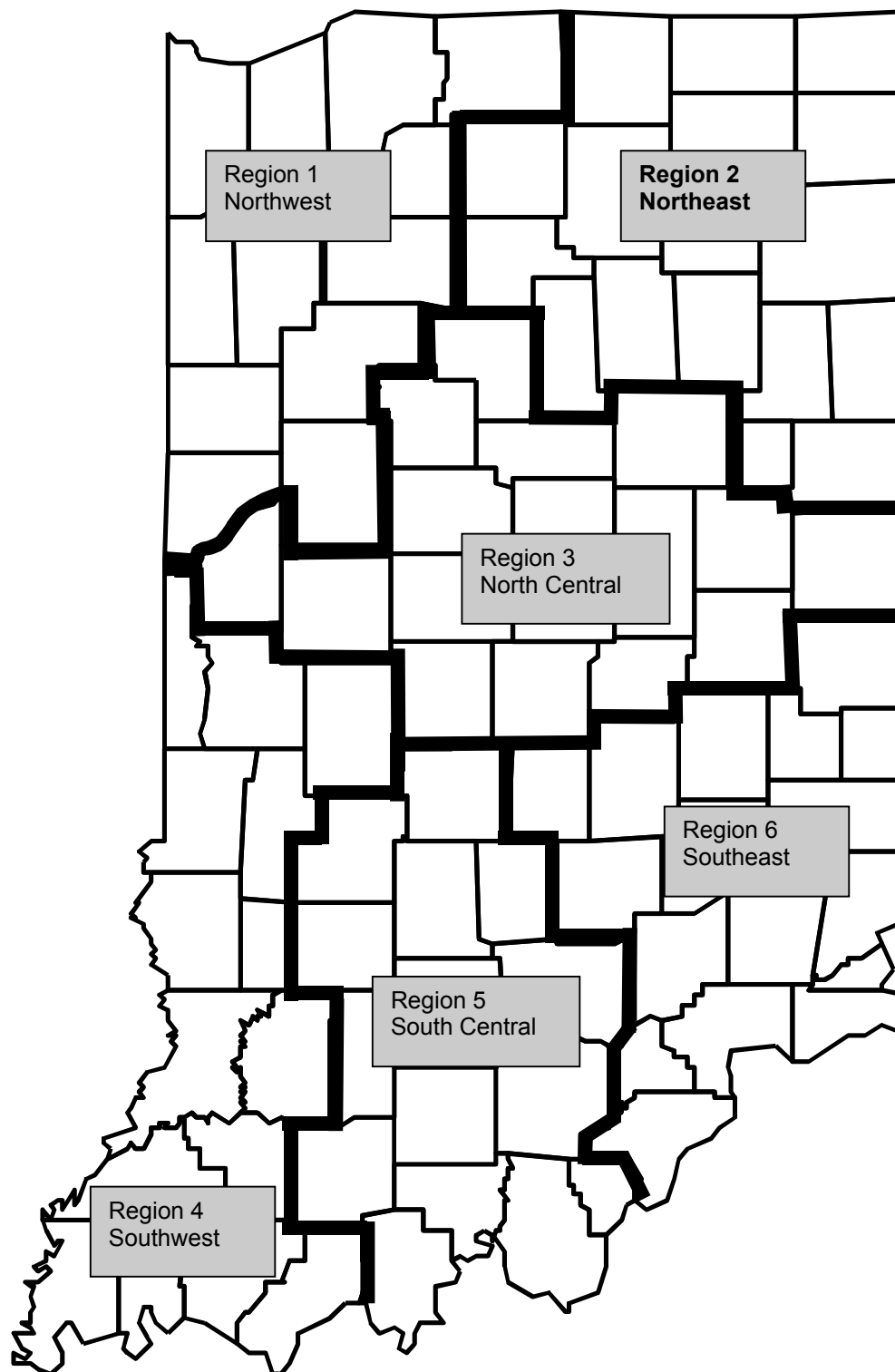


Figure 1. Indiana's fur harvest regions.